

IN THE CLAIMS:

For the Examiner's convenience, all claims currently pending in this application are reproduced in full below.

1. (Previously Presented) A second ink for an ink jet recording apparatus used with a first ink comprising at least one dye as a colorant, the second ink having a same color tone as the first ink, the second ink comprising the same dye as at least one of the dyes in the first ink, and the second ink having a lower dye content than the dye content of the first ink,

wherein a degree of fading of an image produced with the second ink is the same as or lower than a degree of fading of an image produced with the first ink.

2-38. (Cancelled).

39. (Previously Presented) A second ink according to claim 1, wherein the color tone is magenta.

40. (Previously Presented) A second ink for an ink jet recording apparatus used with a first ink comprising at least one dye as a colorant, the second ink having a same color tone as the first ink, the second ink comprising the same dye as at least one of the dyes in the first ink, and the second ink having a lower dye content than the dye content of the first ink,

wherein an image produced with the second ink, when left under a condition that promotes fading, has a residual rate of reflection density that is equal to or greater than that of an image produced with the first ink.

41. (Previously Presented) A second ink according to Claim 40, wherein the color tone is magenta.